

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07089 301214Z
ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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UNCLAS ATHENS 7089

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: EAIR, GR
SUBJ: DISCONTINUATION OF OLYMPIC AIRWAYS MONTREAL-CHICAGO
AND AUSTRALIA RUNS
BRUSSELS FOR FAA
ROME FOR RCAA AND FAA
REF: A. ATHENS 7033. B. ATHENS 7048

1. COMMENTING ON RECENT DISCONTINUATION OF MONTREAL-
CHICAGO AND AUSTRALIA RUNS DURING STRIKE OF OLYMPIC
AIRWAYS STEWARDS AND AIR HOSTESSES, OLYMPIC'S CHAIRMAN
THEOFANOUS HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT:
A. DISCONTINUATION IS PERMANENT, WITH NO PLANS FOR
REINSTATEMENT OF THESE FLIGHTS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
B. THESE RUNS WERE UNECONOMIC AND UNPROFITABLE (AUSTRALIAN
SERVICE REPORTEDLY CAUSED OLYMPIC LOSS OF 185 MILLION DRACHMAS AND
MONTREAL-CHICAGO SERVICE LOSS OF 138 MILLION DRACHMAS IN 1976).
C. THESE RUNS, AND PARTICULARLY THE AUSTRALIAN
SERVICE, WERE A HEAVY STRAIN ON THE AIRLINE'S
PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES.(SENIOR GREEK CAA OFFICIAL
TOLD EMBASSY THAT OLYMPIC PILOTS WERE REQUIRED TO FLY
TO AUSTRALIA ONLY THREE TIMES ANNUALLY, ENTITLED TO REST
FOR 15 NIGHTS SITUATION MADE NECESSARY UTILIZATION OF
150 PERSONS ANNUALLY FOR MANNING THE TWO B-747'S).
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D. ACQUISITION OF A THIRD JUMBO SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED
BY ABOLITION OF AUSTRALIAN RUN, WHICH WAS SERVICED BY TWICE-WEEKLY
B-747 FLIGHTS. A THIRD JUMBO MAY STILL BE REQUIRED IN THE
FUTURE AS OTHER ROUTES RECEIVE HEAVIER TRAFFIC AND FOREVENTUAL
SERVICE IN MIDDLE EAST SCHEDULES.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE CHAIRMAN THOFANOUS' OPTIMISM,

THE CHANCES OF A THIRD JUMBO ACQUISITION AS WELL AS
2 ADDITIONAL B-737'S, APPEAR DIMMER NOW, AT LEAST UNTIL
SUCH ACQUISITIONS IS SUPPORTED BY A THROUGH FEASIBILITY REPORT.
OLYMPIC'S DECISION TO ABANDON THESE FLIGHTS AND THE ABOVE
STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR REORGANIZATION MENTIONED REFTEL B.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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